

February 6, 2003

Local Boundary Commission
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1770
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

FAX (907) 269-4539

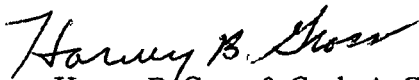
Dear Boundary Commission,

We are writing in opposition to including Olive Cove, on Etolin Island, into the proposed Wrangell-Petersburg Borough. Similar to our neighbors south of us in Meyers Chuck, we feel that taxes on our properties will become an income stream for the larger towns with no direct benefit to us. Currently we support the community of Wrangell by paying 7% sales tax on the goods we purchase as well as harbor fees, etc. We realize that schools are funded through property taxes but why does that fee have to be collected through another layer of government rather than directly to the State? It seems now more than ever we should be thinking of ways to trim State government rather than expanding it. Olive Cove is a community totaling 25 parcels, with a handful of recreational cabins and only a couple year round residents. There is no commerce other than commercial fishing out in the straits surrounding the community. Twenty-two miles and a large body of water separate us from the town of Wrangell.

Please consider all the circumstances facing these small outlying areas before force feeding the Borough to us.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,



Harvey B. Gross & Gayle A. Gross
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Wrangell, AK 99929

